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**MAR 28 2005**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:  
Andrew Schmitz

Docket: SD-209A

Serial Number: 10/085,161

Group Art Unit: 1754

Filed: March 1, 2002

Examiner: E. Johnson

For: ETHYLENE OXIDE CATALYST CARRIER PREPARATION

**NOTICE: THIS APPLICATION IS UNDER FINAL REJECTION**

**FAX COVER SHEET**

TO: Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FAX NO.: 703-872-9306

FROM: Richard S. Roberts  
Reg. No. 27941  
P.O. Box 484  
Princeton, New Jersey 08542  
(609) 921-3500

DATE: March 28, 2005

KINDLY DIRECT THIS COMMUNICATION TO:

EXAMINER : E. Johnson  
GROUP : 1754

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**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 7, 2005, please consider the following remarks:

**REMARKS**

The examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 6-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Takada in view of Jin. The examiner takes the position that it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to combine these references to produce the presently claimed invention. Applicants again urge that this is not the case.

The present claims relate to a process for preparing a catalyst for the production of ethylene oxide. In this process where silver is to be supported on an alumina carrier, the carrier is subjected to aqua-thermal treatment prior to deposition of silver. The aqua-thermal treatment comprises a *sequential series of at least two carrier washings with intermediate carrier calcination at a temperature above 200°C*. This particular combination of steps is not shown or suggested in the applied art, and the examples of the application show the unexpected